



**Support the Rahall Amendment  
to the  
FY04 Interior Appropriations Bill**



**STOP THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
FROM MURDERING ITS MASCOT**

- **The American Bison is not only the symbol for the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, it is an American icon.**
- **Once numbering in the millions, a century of wanton slaughter pushed the bison to the brink of extinction. The only remaining, continuously free-roaming herd now lives in Yellowstone National Park and numbers around 3,000.**
- **Shockingly, the National Park Service participated in the capture and slaughter of 244 of these magnificent beasts this winter. Since 1991, the NPS has participated in the slaughter of nearly 3,000 bison.**
- **The bison are allegedly slaughtered to prevent the spread of brucellosis to cattle grazing on federal and some private lands in Montana. However, brucellosis has never been spread from bison to cattle in the wild. Never.**
- **Bison and cattle intermingle without incident in other states, including Wyoming. Elk, which also carry the disease, are allowed to roam freely. Only bison are killed and only in Montana.**
- **Many of the bison being slaughtered are not even tested for the disease. They are shot on sight for leaving the invisible boundaries of the Park.**
- **The bison leave the Park in search of food during the frozen winter months, a trip they have been making since well before the Park or the State of Montana existed.**
- **Part of The National Park Service's mission is to conserve wildlife within the National Parks so as to leave them "unimpaired" for future generations. Killing bison violates that mission.**
- **The Rahall amendment to the FY04 Interior Appropriations bill will prohibit the use of federal funds to capture or kill bison. The slaughter has got to stop.**